What's said to be "natural" doesn't come naturally...

When I was young,

I didn't know why people were always so nice to me

I couldn't understand that there isn't any particular reason

I couldn't understand

why people smiled at me

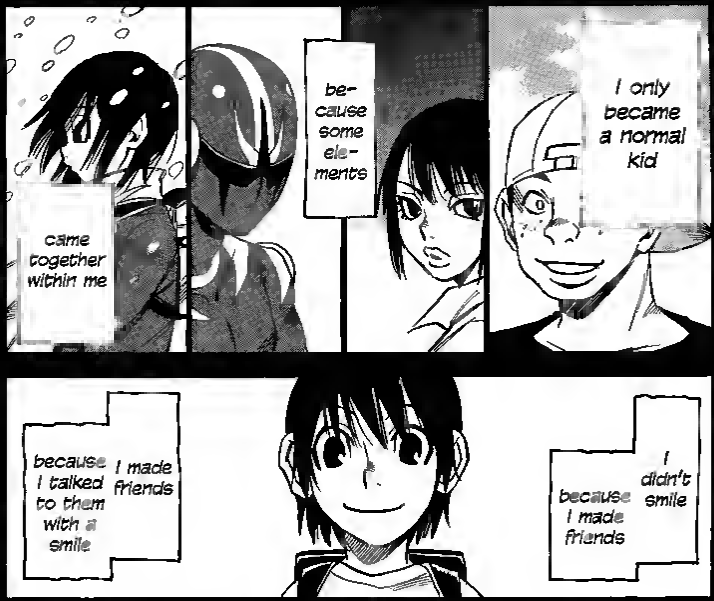
and why they cared for others

I was perfectly capable of crying and laughing.

but I needed a "reason"

If I wasn't told why I should smile,

I wouldn't smile


came together within me
because some elements
I only became a normal kid
because I talked to them with a smile
I made friends
because I made friends
I didn't smile

I did what other people can do.

that I couldn't think about others
However, it took me so much effort to think about myself
but after a while, smiling and getting angry came naturally to me
At first, I was just pretending,

The serial kidnapping and murders
happened during fifth grade
After the culprit was caught,
the adults, including the teachers and my mother,
desperately tried to erase it from our memories
They were successful
We, the kids, stopped talking and remembering about it
But... what the adults sealed away within the depths of my mind
were the dead classmates
and the culprit ...
However, what I wanted to forget
wasn't the incident

It was a certain "thought" I had.

#4 [Attempted Kidnapping: May 2006]

真実と事故

僕だけがいない街

反撃編 超感覚サスペンス連載第4回

三部けい
Kei SANBE
神宿りのナギ『鬼婿の鳥』

Incident and Truth

Didn't you buy too much?
マルクマ
ハッピーウィーク 5% OFF
% OFF
I don't want to go all the way back to the entrance
Just use a cart
We just need enough for two, so why did you buy so much?
Two?
Well, we'll be able to eat curry for a while
Things in Chiba are more expensive, but this shop is cheap

Oh my
I told you to not run...
Wah
UWAA AHHH HHHH

Who'd want to eat with my mom?
Call a friend over
AAH HHH HHH
Let's go buy another one

Don't you have a girl you like?
I don't have one
Huh?
Like your "girlfriend"
What is she say-ing?

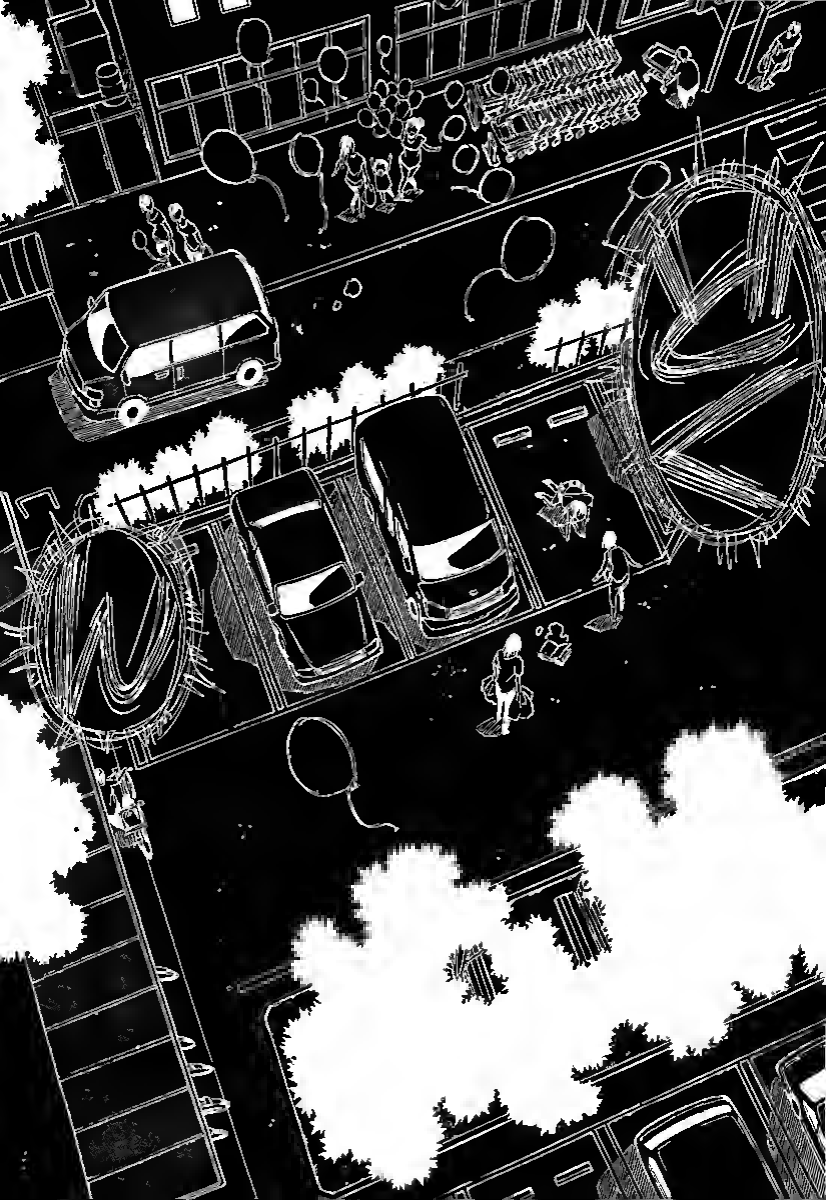
I don't have one
... Manga is my life
Huh?
Really?
What?

Mr. Fujinuma!!
Here! You dropped this!

Sorry
I couldn't resist reading this book!
I told you
... What?

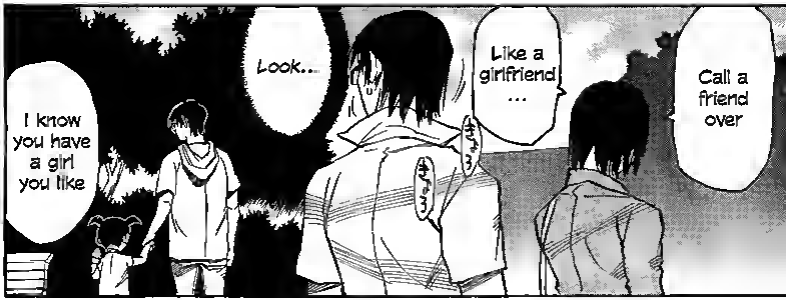
Book: Hokkaidou Serial Kidnapping and Murder Case of Grade School Children

Book: Jun Shiratori - Death Sentence



AH...
Haha
Is it too heavy?
Go use a cart
...Hm?
What is it, Satoru?
I bought lots of food
so we'll be able to eat curry for a while
Things in Chiba are more expensive, but this shop is cheap
...
Wah
Replays...
at a time like this

WAA AHHH HHHH
Gotta look... for the oddity
Oh my
I told you to not run...


Call a friend over
Like a girlfriend ...
Look...
I know you have a girl you like

What are you looking around for?
Are you listening to me?
...Is it Airi!?
...Yeah
Ai... Katagiri!
Don't run
It's not safe

Here! You dropped this!
Hey, Mr. Fujinuma?
Huh?
Okay
I told you
.....
Sorry
I couldn't resist reading this
Kyah!
Wah
Wah

A-...
Are you okay?
Shit... I don't know what the cause is!
I was wrong ...?

I can't find the oddity...!
What is it...!?
What's going to happen?
Do I have to look for it in this giant parking lot?
There's nothing that stands out to me...!
Is this "game over" for me...!?

Mom ...
I gotta ask for help...
Don't you feel that something is wrong?
Huh?
Can you look around?
...What are you saying?
Wah
Oh my
UWAA AHHH HHHH

Before you moved out...
You've said that to me before...
..... Oh yea
and..... There was a small fire...
Really ...?
...Huh?
... Mom?
?
P

Hm?
He looked at me...
No, he "noticed" me?
.....
Here! You dropped this!
Mr. Fujinuma!
HAHA
Ah
What a beautiful photo!
Wah!
KYAH!

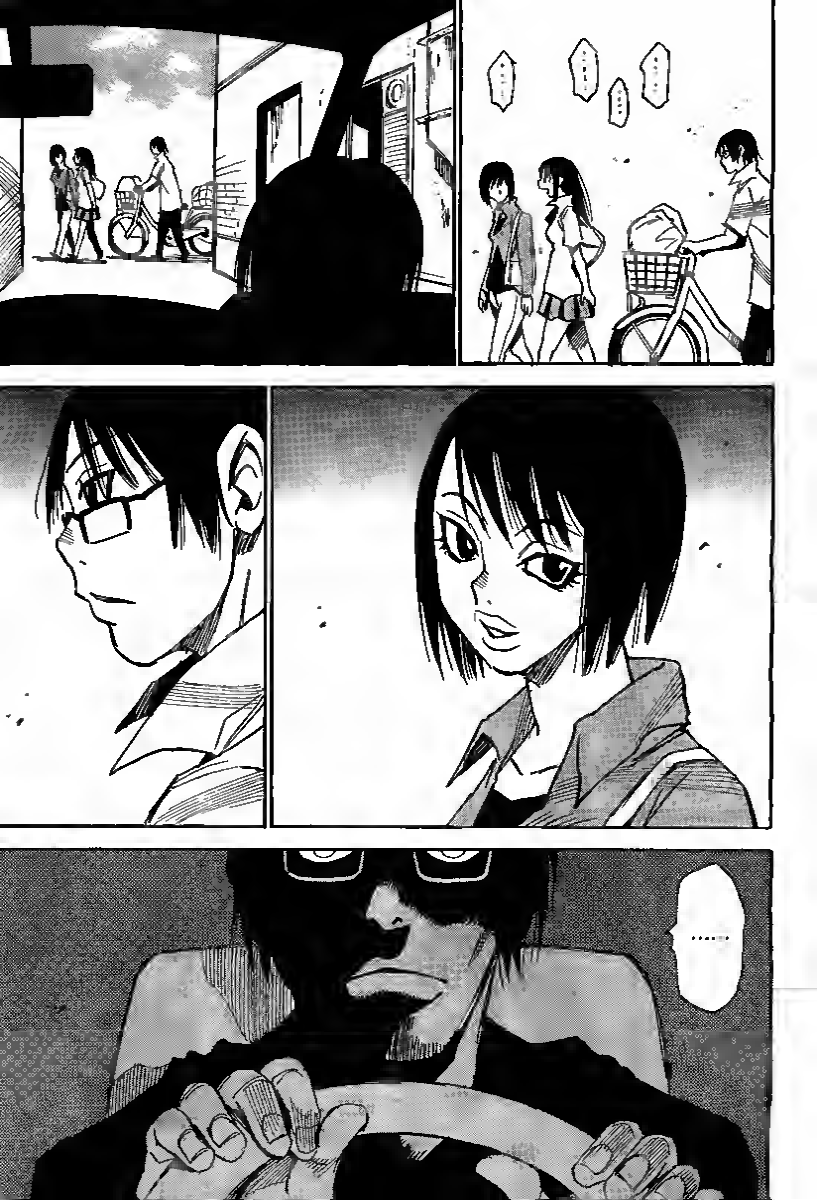
ぎゅっ
S-... Sorry!
Now I dropped it too

Sorry again
I couldn't resist reading it!

.....
ブォォォ

That's fine. Thanks...
Did things change ...?
Did something happen ...?
Hm?
Hey
Do you have strange hobbies, Mr. Fujiruma?
Narashino Plate: XXX-XX Toyota Minivan
Looks like the replays are over...
Time has started moving forward... but nothing is happening.
No, was something avoided already...?
How?
I think that it's because Mom found something ...!

Huh!? No way! She's your mom!?
I thought that she's your sister
Do you believe in vampires?
Now I do
...Did you have a fight with her?
No...
Sorry I was deep in thought
See
I'll leave you two by yourselves
Ah
"Airi"... was it
We're having curry tonight. Do you want to join us?
I'm Airi Katagiri
Don't mind if I do!
I'll help!
...Are you going to eat at all...?



You make manga!?
Huh!?
Was it that surprising?
Yeah
Ah, it's true. Your manga is in "Weekly Tanica"...!
Don't look it up
Why!?
It's amazing!
That's why you bought that weird book
Now let's dig in
Weird book...
...I don't like this because I'm not amazing at all
You can see that from this apartment...
Don't mind if I do
Uwah! It's great!
Thanks
but I was wrong
Sorry, but you're wrong
I thought that you were way too young to be his girlfriend.
You're also good at cooking
Mr. Fujinuma ...
Satoru is...
A "friend" that I can respect

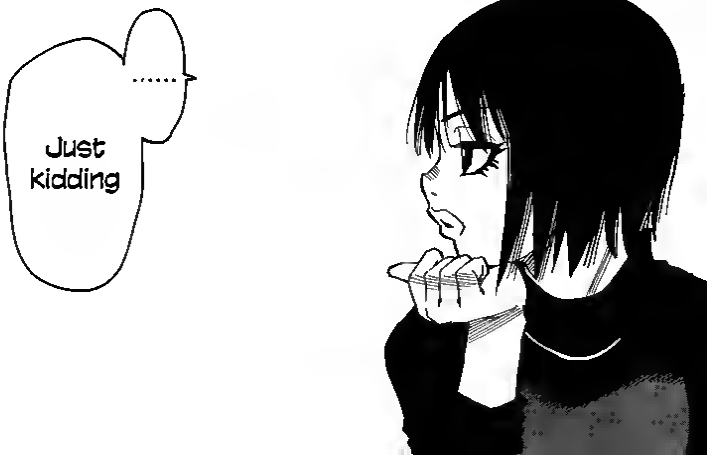
This sudden development can only bring me harm
What if she found out that I like Airi?
Maybe it's because like my mom, I hate people with similar personality traits, but Mom's lack of delicacy makes me mad
No... it's good
What? Is it too spicy?
It was over the moment she said "friend that I can respect"
Just look out for cops
It's okay
Sure
Satoru Thanks for the ride,
Thanks for the meal!
Then I'll give you a ride to the train station
Huh? Do I have to go now?
Can't I stay over?
You're a high school student, Katagiri

I hope I don't get caught by the police...!
A thirty-year old man sharing a seat with a minor
I told you, it's not that kind of relation-ship...
She's just being polite
She says she respects you
You have a chance with her
You sure are dense
Don't just see her as a potential daughter-in-law!
She's a younger coworker

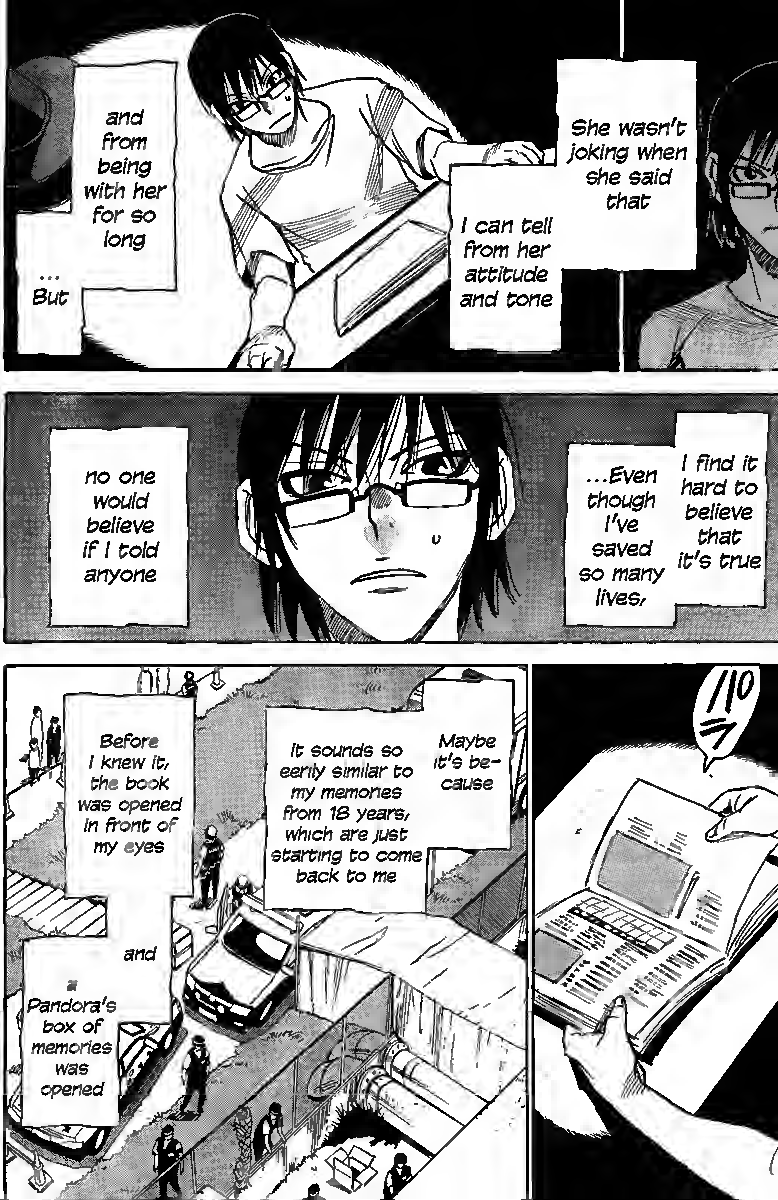
Even if that's true...
GRR...
That girl... Airi didn't say that she was being polite

Don't turn every female into a potential marriage partner for me
And don't take such a blunt approach
I just don't want to break the relation-ships that I have with others!
Then you should be nicer to me
because you're really bad at human relation-ships
Who you think raised me this way!?
Ah
Have you cooled your head?
This talk is over
I introduced myself to your landlord yesterday,
so I'll go apologize to him tomorrow
.....

By the way...
about what happened in the afternoon
Did you notice anything in the parking lot...?
What!?
A failed kidnapping attempt


.....
Just kidding

and that look...
I know that man
...I have a bad feeling about this
Why do I remember that look?
When did I see him?
Who was he?
Who?
...Mm
...Mm
...
Why can't I remember it even though I remember that?
That's probably a hint
I can only remember feeling "disgusted"
What is it?
Mom
I talk to you about this tomorrow
Good night
Don't make jokes like that
Ah, sorry, I was deep in thought


She wasn't joking when she said that
I can tell from her attitude and tone
and from being with her for so long
...
But
I find it hard to believe that it's true
...Even though I've saved so many lives,
no one would believe if I told anyone
Maybe it's because
It sounds so eerily similar to my memories from 18 years, which are just starting to come back to me
Before I knew it, the book was opened in front of my eyes
and
a Pandora's box of memories was opened
110

The culprit, Jun Shiratori, a.k.a. Yuuki, killed 3 fifth-graders:
Kayo Hinadzuki (10);
a girl who attended Shiratori's alma mater, Mikoto Elementary School,
Aya Nakanishi (10);
a girl who attended Izumi Elementary School, which is in the neighboring town,
Hiromi Sugita (10)
and a boy who attended Mikoto Elementary School,
He had a girly face and a girly name
And like me, he wasn't good with people...
...That's Hiromi

The person that I wanted to forget the most

My mom will be mad at me
It's dangerous...
Everyone's going, so we'll be fine
It's been so long since we last went to the secret base
... ...
Come on, be brave and come with us!
... ...

what Mom really wanted to erase from my memories
And it might be
I wanted to forget the most
That's what
I said to Mom something that I never said again
When I was told that I "won't be able to meet Hiromi anymore".
"Come on in"
I should have called out to him
Sometimes he would come near the secret base

"I could have saved him"

Boku Dake ga Inai Machi - Continues Next Issue